

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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SCHAUER ANNOUNCES JOBS FUND EVENT COMING TO BATTLE CREEK *Over \$300 Million in New Investment Available*

LANSING—State Sen. Mark Schauer announced today that entrepreneurs, business leaders, and educators are encouraged to attend an introductory session on the 21st Century Jobs Fund. Participants will receive first-hand information about this exciting new \$300 million investment opportunity from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The 21st Century Jobs Fund is MEDC's new initiative to support economic diversity, high-tech business, and jobs. As part of the their Informational Tour, MEDC will host a presentation Friday January 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Western Michigan University's College of Aviation at 237 North Helmer Road in Battle Creek.

"We have a very special opportunity here for our city and our entire region," said Schauer. "We have proven this is fertile ground for job creation. Battle Creek has the brains, the business, and the location to bring Michigan great results through this program."

The project is based on the success model of the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor and Technology Tri-Corridor initiatives. Like the Corridor programs, the 21st Century Jobs Fund will employ a competitive, independent peer-review request for proposal (RFP) process.

Sen. Schauer worked with MEDC officials to ensure the Informational Tour came to Battle Creek. The meetings are designed to provide more information about access to the new resources available through the 21st Century Jobs Fund for potential business start-ups, researchers, and product developers. The information session will focus on presenting the program's request for proposals, proposal due dates, peer review process, eligibility requirements, funding categories, evaluation criteria, and other meaningful information for potential applicants.

"It is very important for southwest Michigan entrepreneurs and researchers to understand the new opportunities available through the 21st Century Jobs Fund," MEDC President and CEO James Epolito said. "I appreciate Senator Schauer's efforts to make these opportunities possible through his support of the legislation, and also to get out the good news by helping arrange the 21st Century Jobs Fund promotional tour's visit to the WMU College of Aviation in Battle Creek."

The 21st Century Jobs Fund calls for an unprecedented \$300 million investment in new technology-oriented business for Michigan. It focuses resources in three areas:

- Encourage the Development and Commercialization of Competitive-Edge Technologies
- Increase Capital Investment Activity
- Increase Commercial Lending Activity

“Programs like these are vital to growing and diversifying our economy,” said Schauer. “My hope is that the information we present will generate applications from entrepreneurs in this region who create jobs. This is an incredible chance to be a leader in our state’s economic transformation.”

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.